

under the pressure of misfortune, moderate and possessing himself in the full career of victory, a courage and modesty of which only Washington was capable.

How grand, how generous, how human he appears to us at the close of the war! When we behold Washington, after having discharged his duty faithfully, standing before the nations representatives, returning to them the trust which they have put in his keeping, we feel a burning zeal that prompts us to pour out our whole hearts. Had he had any selfish objects how easily he could have gratified them. A French orator truly said "on that day when Washington resigned his commission in the hall of congress, a crown decked with jewels was placed upon the book of the Constitution. Suddenly Washington seizes it, breaks it, and flings the pieces to the assembled crowd." In assuming the command as General-in-Chief of the army he was prompted by motives to free his country from the English yoke and to alleviate the sufferings of humanity, and when this was brought to a consumation he realized that his work was done, and henceforth prepared to take his station in life as a private citizen.

In him virtue resisted temptation, the gilded baseness of the world stood abashed before his conscientious principles. He looked up higher to the liberty of his countrymen, and for their sake he offered all he had.

He then returned home with the cherished hope of enjoying the remainder of his life in tranquility. But here again duty calls him into active service. He was convinced that silence on his part, at a time when the establishment of a permanent government was necessary would be a crime. Henceforth, we find him on the battlefield fighting, not with sword and bayonet, but with mind, body and soul for the establishment of that grand government which we at present enjoy.

As President of the United States, we find that all his desires, all his thoughts and all his energies were employed for the welfare of his countrymen. In one of his letters to a friend of his he says: "All see and most admire the glare which hovers around the external happiness of elevated office.